

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

Please cancel claims 9-15 and 26-31. A complete listing of the claims, including their current status, is set forth below.

1-15. (Cancelled)

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16. (Previously presented) A method of modulating apoptosis in a cell in vitro comprising: administering to said cell an exogenous compound that binds to a Toso protein of said cell, wherein said Toso protein is encoded by a nucleic acid that hybridizes under high stringency conditions to the nucleic acid sequence depicted in Figure 1 (SEQ ID NO:1) or its complement, wherein said binding of the compound to the Toso protein modulates apoptosis in said cell.

17. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 16, wherein the binding of said exogenous compound to said Toso protein reduces or eliminates the biological activity of said Toso protein.

18. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 16, wherein the binding of said exogenous compound to said Toso protein increases the biological activity of said Toso protein.

19-31. (Cancelled)